Surplus crops for export

2021. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the various surplus crops which are available for export during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): Export of agricultural products depends on various factors such as both domestic and international demand and supply position, domestic and international prices, consumer preferences, varieties traded etc. EXIM policy permits free exports of all agricultural products (except onion and nigerseed, exports of which are canalized through approved agencies).

New areas for tea plantation

2022. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Board has been able to find out new area suitable for tea plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made for tea plantation in the areas; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government and Tea Board, separately, in this venture during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Tea Board has identified several new areas suitable for tea plantation in the non-traditional tea growing regions of the country and has been extending assistance towards promoting tea cultivation in these areas till the 9th Five Year Plan. However, considering the excess supply of tea and the fall in prices of tea, emphasis has shifted from extension planting in new areas to renovation of existing field assets, in the 10th Plan. Nearly 8500 hectares of new areas have been planted with tea so far in States such as Orissa, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Bihar, Uttaranchal, Nagaland, etc. The expansion programme for growing tea in non-traditional States has been restricted at 1250 hectares during the 10th Plan period.

(c) The financial assistance extended by Tea Board under its Plan Scheme for new planting activity in new areas, is as under:

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs. Lakhs)
2000-01	238.11
2001-02	365.00
2002-03	601.67

The amount disbursed during 2002-03 includes committed expenditure of 9th Plan cases and grant for raising tea nurseries.

Free trade agreement with EU

†2023. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Union is considering to sign a free trade agreement with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the conditions of the above trade agreement; and

(d) the time frame fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Investment by NRIs

†2024. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pace of capital investment by the NRIs is very slow:

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) if not, the extent of investment made so far?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.